

Easy Read



Helping children learn through the Arts

A plan for Wales 2015 - 2020



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales

This is an Easy Read version of ‘Creative Learning through the Arts - an action plan for Wales 2015 – 2020’

March 2015

How to use this document

This is an Easy Read version. The words and their meaning are easy to read and understand.

You may need help and support to read and understand this document. Ask someone you know to help you.

Some words may be difficult to understand. These are in **bold** and have been explained in a box beneath the word. You can see a list of hard words used in this document on page **20**

Where the document says 'we', this means Arts Council of Wales.

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School project, Arts Community (Image by Nancy Evans)

Introduction from Huw Lewis AM and Ken Skates AM

Learning about and doing the arts is important for children. It helps them to feel happier and learn better.

We think the arts helps people be more equal. This means a better life for everyone.

This plan will help children in school. And help Wales do more in the world and make more money.

We are giving money for the plan to show how important this is to us. We will give £10 million in the next 5 years. The Lottery will also give £10 million.



Huw Lewis AM
Minister for Education and Skills



Ken Skates AM
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

Helping children learn through the Arts

This document is about our plan to help children learn through using the Arts. This plan is for 5 years.

The arts can be:



Theatre



Music



Visual arts
such as painting



Craft
such as sculpture



Performance
such as dance



Circus and
carnival arts.

People who make art are called **artists**.

The arts are important because they help us to understand:

- ourselves and other people
- the things which make us different and
- the things we have in common.

The arts give us the chance to work together and to get on better.

Taking part in the arts can also be fun.



Developing Dylan workshop with Laura Sheldon, Literature Wales (image: Sioned a Nia Photography)

About Arts Council of Wales

We:

- support artists in Wales to make great art
- work to get art to as many people in Wales as possible.

We are a **Public Body**.

Public Bodies in Wales look after money for the Welsh Government.



A community schools workshop at Aberystwyth Arts Centre. (Photo Cath Sherrell)

We look after money to develop the arts in Wales.

We also tell people in other countries about the arts in Wales.

We give **grants** to arts projects across Wales.

A **grant** is money that we give to artists to help them make their art.

We give **grants** to individual artists and groups. We have a separate guide called 'Arts Grants for Organisations' that says how we can support groups and organisations.



Hafod Primary School children painting a mural at a local nursing home

What we want to happen

We think that all schools should:

- use the Arts to help children learn
- work together with arts organisations to do this
- tell each other what works well
- make the Arts so that anyone can take part.



Giants Tales from Wales, Flintshire primary schools cluster project with artist in residency Luned Rhys Parri (Photo Barry Hamilton)

How we will do this

We will aim to:

- help children get better at what they do by using the Arts
- get more and better Arts going on in schools
- support teachers and our staff to get better at what they do.

We will work on the 3 things we think are most important in schools:

1. get more children reading well
2. get children better at doing maths
3. make sure children who have hard lives have the same chance as everyone

Our plan will work towards all this. We need to work with other arts organisations. We all need to work with teachers and schools.



Gallery workshop at Ffotogallery Photo Rowan Lear

Our plan:

1. Help children get better at what they do by using the Arts

Using the arts in all lessons can help children:

- want to learn
- behave better
- learn more

We will start by making some schools a **Lead Creative School**.

Lead Creative Schools will show how well the arts can be used to help children do better.

Lead Creative Schools will already have ideas of how to use the arts in all lessons. We will:

- give them creative professionals to work with the school

Creative professionals work in the arts. It is their job. For example: musicians, writers for theatre, visual artists, curators, actors, dancers, sculptors and producers.

- make sure the teacher is in charge of what happens. They will work with the creative professionals to teach in new ways in the classroom.
- get support from us for at least 2 years.

1 out of 3 schools in Wales will be able to be a **Lead Creative School**.



Creative storytelling workshop with Emma Cartwright, Mission Gallery



Myths, Arts Connection school project

2. Get more and better Arts going on in schools

To do this we will:

- start a new website with ideas for using the arts in school
- give money for 4 arts and schools support groups across Wales. These groups will bring together creative professionals and teachers. They will look together at how to do the arts well in schools
- find arts champions who are teachers. These champions will help other schools do the arts better
- give money for school children to try out new things in the arts. This may be going to theatres. Or new things happening in school with an arts organisation
- make sure there are ways to help children with reading and maths in the arts
- work on a new pack for schools about using the arts. This will help children who have hard lives have the same chance as everyone
- find out what support there is for children who are good at the arts. This will help us know what more support is needed
- work at getting good information for children on working in the arts.



Artes Mundi 5 organised educational workshops

3. Support teachers and creative professionals to get better at what they do

We need to make sure that this work in schools will carry on. Supporting teachers and **creative professionals** will help make sure of this.

To support teachers and **creative professionals** we will:

- start training for teachers and **creative professionals** on ways to help children with reading and maths
- from the **Lead Creative Schools** we will get new trainers. They will help to carry this work on
- support teacher training centres to use arts for teaching in the classroom
- write about the best examples in Wales of using arts for teaching in the classroom

Checking how well we do

We will look at the **Lead Creative Schools**. We will find out:

- how well the children have done with reading and maths
- how children from poor families have done. Have they all had the same chances as other children?
- how well children have done at the arts. Are they using their imagination? Are they good at thinking of and making new art?

We will write a report every year. We will say in the report what we need to do for the next year.



The Hub, Clwyd Theatr Cymru Theatre for Young People performing at a secondary school in Flintshire

Hard words

Creative professionals

Creative professionals work in the arts. It is their job. For example: musicians, writers for theatre, visual artists, curators, actors, dancers, sculptors and producers.

Grant

A grant is money that we give to artists to help them make their art.

Lead Creative Schools

Lead creative schools. These schools will show how well the arts can be used to help children do better.

Public Bodies

Public Bodies in Wales look after money for the Welsh Government.